

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) A method for competitive bidding comprising steps of:
- inputting a plurality of vendor records into a portion of an electronic memory, at least one of said vendor records having a vendor capability data representing a set of vendor manufacturing capabilities of the vendor identified by said record;
- storing in a portion of a further electronic memory an association between a print information product vendor and a buyer;
- inputting a buyer's invitation-for-bid data into a computer memory, said buyer's invitation-for-bid data having a buyer identification data, and having an invitation for bid on a print information product job from said buyer;
- calculating a vendor requirement data from said buyer's invitation-for-bid data, said vendor requirement data representing a set of vendor manufacturing capabilities required for performing said print information product job;
- comparing said vendor requirement data to a plurality of said vendor records having a buyer identification data field identifying the buyer from which said buyer's invitation-for-bid data was received;
- identifying at least one vendor record as qualified, based on said comparing;

transmitting a vendor's invitation-for-bid data based on said buyer's invitation-for-bid data to each vendor identified by said at least one vendor record;

inputting into said general purpose computer a plurality of bid data, each from one of said vendors to which said vendor's invitation-for-bid data was transmitted, each of said bid data representing a bid price;

identifying a bid data from said received bid data having the lowest represented bid price;

outputting a selected vendor data representing the identity of the vendor corresponding to the bid data identified by said identifying step; and

transmitting an order to the vendor represented by said selected vendor data.